Environmental clearance to Expressway Projects of Maharashtra

193. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Expressway projects to be set up on BOT basis, submitted by the Maharashtra Government, are pending environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the number and details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests received the following three proposals from Government of Maharashtra in September 1998 which are proposed to be set up on BOT basis: Mumbai-Talasari, Mumbai-Nasik, Mumbai-Mahad Expressways. Due to inadequate information, the proposals on Mumbai-Nasik and Mumbai-Mahad Expressway were closed in December 1999 and June 1999 respectively. In respect of Mumbai-Talasari though the project was- closed in April 1999 due to inadequate information, clarifications were received in January 2000 and the file was reopened for further processing.

Pollution due to Anti-TB Drug

194. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large scale pollution of thionyl chloride vapours, sulphur dioxide, etc., is being caused by manufacture of Anti-TB drug Pyrazinamide from OPDA;

(b) what steps Government have taken to prevent such pollution, which is dangerous to life of human beings; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Anti-TB drug manufacturing units may emit